

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	461



Location Lexington  
(also known as 9 Bushnell Dr.)  
Address 277 Waltham Street

Historic Name Augustus Elwin Scott

House

Present residential

Original residential

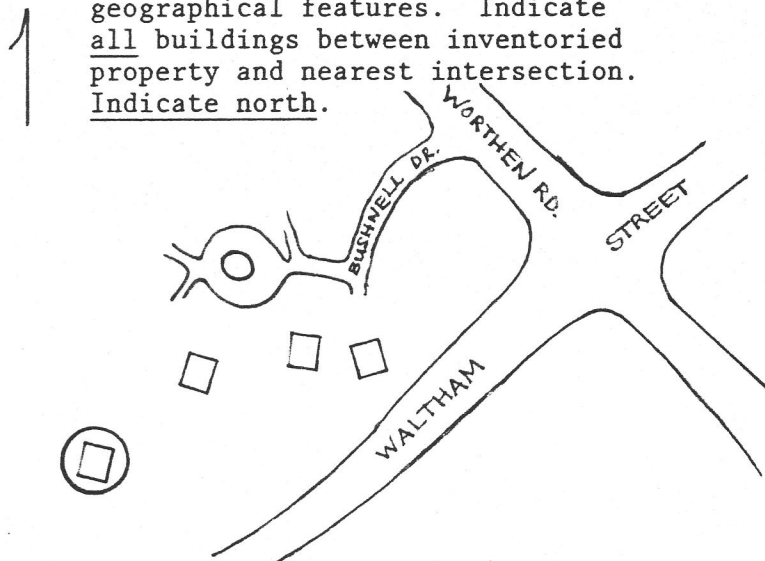
DESCRIPTION:

Year 1891

Source Lexington Minute Man, May 15, 1891

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

Style Shingle Style

attributed to

Architect Hartwell and Richardson, arch.

H. H. Hunt, contractor

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

Moved  Date

Approx. acreage 4.9 A.

Setting A prominent site on the south

slope of Loring Hill; landscaped grounds

extend down to Waltham Street.

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This is the finest Shingle Style house in Lexington. The house shares many features with the Yerxa House in Cambridge by Hartwell and Richardson; and Susan Maycock, Hartwell and Richardson expert, is comfortable with the attribution of this house to the architects. A balanced design with turrets at either end, one round and one hexagonal, and a steep chateausque roof with one dormer, this building with overall shingled finish is a commanding presence on Waltham Street. There have been few changes to the gracious

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Augustus E. Scott was one of Lexington's most prominent citizens. He "came to Lexington shortly after graduating from college to be principal of the high school. Finding his ambitions were more extensive, he studied law and practiced in Boston" (Reinhardt dissertation, p. 102). He was a state representative from 1879 to 1880 and a state senator in 1885. He became a justice in the Middlesex Central District Court. He was president of the Appalachian Mountain Club and a trustee of the Lexington Savings Bank. He served on the school committee and was repeatedly moderator of Town Meeting.

As chairman of the building committee of the Hancock School, A.E. Scott got to know Hartwell and Richardson, winners of the architectural competition, first hand. This must have induced him to choose the architects to design his own house.

Scott married late at 53. Tradition states that he went to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, fell in love with the queen, and married her. Mrs. Scott, is said to have requested that he build her a "Spanish" house.

The next owners were the Ryders of Newton, who purchased the house in 1917 for a summer residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 617. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Lexington Minute Man, May 15, 1891.

Reinhardt, Elizabeth Wright. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University.

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities photograph collection.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

461

Property Name: 277 Waltham Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

but informal interiors. The interior plan is open. There is a stairhall with fireplace and elaborate staircase which even incorporates a place to cage a dog under the stairs. Rooms on the first floor are separated only by wide door openings and many diagonal features such as fireplaces and windows provide further interest and sense of flowing space. Finishes are elaboratively carved or molded oak. Each fireplace is a fine brick or tile composition unlike any of the others.

The grounds of the house extend down to Waltham Street. Early photographs at SPNEA show the grounds as they were in Scott's time.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
277 WALTHAM ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

461

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Augustus E. Scott married Cecilia Gustine on January 20, 1891 and this house was built shortly thereafter.

On May 15, 1891 the *Lexington Minute-man* reported that "The contract for A.E. Scott's new house has been awarded to H.H. Hunt of Newton. It is to be a handsome structure and will occupy a slightly position on the summit of Loring hill, just off Waltham street, about a mile from the village". Little is known about builder Henry H. Hunt. The MACRIS database maintained by the Massachusetts Historical Commission credits him with seven residential buildings in Boston, Brookline and Newton, built between 1890 and 1902.

Augustus Elwin Scott was born in Franklin, Massachusetts in 1838. He studied in the Milford High School and in the Green Mountain Liberal Institute at Woodstock, Vermont and later at Brown University and Tufts College. He received the degree of A.B. in 1858 and in 1861 received his Master of Arts from Tufts College. He studied in the Albany Law School and received the degree of LL.B. He served as the principal of the high school in Abington for two years and for nearly six years was the principal of the high school in Lexington. Scott was active in many different fields. He was a member of the State Legislature from 1879-80 and a State Senator from 1885-86. He assisted in establishing the Middlesex Central District Court and was for many years an Associate Justice. He organized the Lexington Field and Garden Club and was prominent in the forming and incorporating of the Lexington Historical Society, of which he was the first president. A.E. Scott played a prominent part in procuring the charter of the Lexington Savings Bank in 1871, and was an officer in the bank and its attorney. Scott was also an early president of the Appalachian Mountain Club and was active in planning and building paths to important points in the White Mountains. He was an early climber of Pike's Peak and Gray's Peak, was one of the first American climbers of Mont Blanc and made explorations in the Scottish Highlands. He was also an authority on the flora of Eastern Massachusetts and of high altitudes (Eliot 1909). Locally, A.E. Scott also had extensive real estate holdings and was responsible for several subdivisions.

A. E. Scott died prior to 1918. The property was sold by Cecilia Scott to Charles Ryder, proprietor of Ryder's Stock Farm (cattle and hogs) at 24 Maple Street. Ryder lived in Newton in the winter and spent summers in Lexington. He continued to own it into the 1930s. The house was owned by Marshall and Rena Bushnell from 1943 to 1968 and by Irving and Gladys Kanter from 1968 to 2005.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Eliot, Samuel Atkins. *Biographical history of Massachusetts: biographies and autobiographies of the leading men in the state*. Massachusetts Biographical Society, 1909, vol. 2.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
*Lexington Minute-Man*, May 15, 1891.

Supplement prepared by:  
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